

## **“A descriptive study to assess the knowledge on child abuse among mothers residing at selected rural areas, in Bangalore”.**

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**Abstract: Background & Objectives:** Although the injuries of child abuse are many and varied, several types of injuries are common to abuse. Many of these injuries are within the scope of dentistry or easily observed by the dental professional in the course of routine dental treatment. This case emphasized that all practitioners should be vigilant when patients present with abnormal injuries which may be the result of abuse and further investigation should be instigated. **Method:** The research approach used was Descriptive approach. The study was conducted in Thirumenahalli village, Bangalore. The sample consists of 50 mothers in the age group of 18-38 yrs residing in the selected rural areas of Bangalore and the samples were drawn by Non-probability Convenient sampling technique. **Results:** The study shows 90% (45) of mothers have inadequate knowledge, 10% (5) have moderately adequate knowledge and none of them showed adequate knowledge regarding child abuse. **Interpretation & Conclusion:** Findings of the study indicate that majority of the mothers have inadequate knowledge regarding child abuse

**Key words:** child abuse, trauma, injuries, bruising etc.

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### **I. Introduction: "It shouldn't hurt to be a child"**

Every year, thousands of families welcome a new baby into their home. Almost all those children brought into the world get to experience what it is to have a loving family, but for a small percentage, life is not so easy. They are forced to deal with things that most of us would never imagine in our worst nightmares. <sup>1</sup>Rape 227,080 children are sexually abused each year. Assaults 811,000 children are physically abused each year. Hatred. 97,320 children are emotionally abused each year. Neglect 2,011,280 children are neglected each year. Murder 60,500 children die of child abuse each and every year. Child abuse takes many different forms, as suggested by the statistics. This makes it difficult for people to recognize that abuse is taking place.

**Statement of the problem:** “A descriptive study to assess the knowledge on child abuse among mothers residing in the selected rural areas of Bangalore”.

### **II. Objectives:**

1. To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse.
2. To associate the level of knowledge of mothers with their selected demographic variables.

### **III. Operational Definitions**

- **Knowledge:** refers to the awareness and understanding of the mothers regarding child abuse in the selected rural areas.
- **Assess:** refers to the word Evaluate or estimate the nature, ability, or quality of: "the committee must assess the relative importance of the issues". Here the assess refers to evaluate the level of knowledge of the mothers regarding child abuse.
- **Child abuse:** It refers to the physical, sexual or emotional mistreatment or neglect of a child or children.
- **Mothers:** refers to a women in relation to a child or children to whom she has given birth and bring up with care and affection “the art of mothering”, in the present study the women who has child are children are taken for the study within the age group of 18- 38yrs
- **Rural areas:** A rural area is a geographic area that is located outside the cities and towns. In this study the Agrahara and the Thirumenahalli village are the rural areas.

#### IV. Methodology:

The conceptual framework adopted for the present study was based on Pender’s Health Promotion Model. A quantitative approach and descriptive survey design was used for the present study. The study variable is knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse and the socio-demographic variables are age, marital status, type of family, educational status, occupational status, monthly income, no. of. Children, previous source of teaching experience, all sources of information, previous exposure.

The present study was conducted in selected rural areas of Bangalore (agrahara and thirumenahalli village) with 50 mother who are fulfilling the inclusion criteria using the Non-probability Convenient sampling technique. The criteria for sample selection is (1) Mothers who can speak and understand English and Kannada. (2) Mothers those who were willing to participate in the study. (3) Mothers residing in rural areas. Data collection instruments were prepared based on the objectives of the study. The tool consists of the following: **Section I: Demographic characteristics of the mothers**, It consists of age, marital status, type of family, educational status, occupational status, monthly income, no. of. Children, previous source of teaching experience, all sources of information, previous exposure. **Section II: Deals with knowledge assessment on child abuse:** This section consists of 20 items containing questions related to child abuse.

**Results: Section - 1: Demographic Characteristics of mothers in the rural areas. N=50**

| S. No | Characteristics                              | Category            | Respondents |         |
|-------|--|---------------------|-------------|---------|
|       |  |                     | Number      | Percent |
| 1.    | Age of the mother                            | 18-28yrs            | 30          | 60.0    |
|       |  | 28-38yrs            | 20          | 40.0    |
| 2.    | Marital status                               | Married             | 42          | 84.0    |
|       |  | Unmarried           | 2           | 4.0     |
|       |  | Widowed             | 3           | 6.0     |
|       |  | Divorced            | 3           | 6.0     |
| 3.    | Type of family                               | Joint               | 43          | 86.0    |
|       |  | Nuclear             | 4           | 8.0     |
|       |  | Others              | 3           | 6.0     |
| 4.    | Educational status                           | Illiterate          | 4           | 8.0     |
|       |  | Primary education   | 43          | 86.0    |
|       |  | Higher education    | 3           | 6.0     |
| 5.    | Occupation of mother                         | Home maker          | 41          | 82.0    |
|       |  | Private employee    | 3           | 6.0     |
|       |  | Others              | 6           | 12.0    |
|       |  |                     |             |         |
| 6.    | Monthly income                               | Below Rs 5,000      | 7           | 14.0    |
|       |  | Rs 5,000-10,000     | 40          | 80.0    |
|       |  | Rs 10,000 and above | 3           | 6.0     |
| 7.    | No of children                               | 1                   | 33          | 66.0    |
|       |  | 2                   | 12          | 24.0    |
|       |  | 3 and above         | 5           | 10.0    |
| 8.    | Exposure to previous teaching on child abuse | Yes                 | 12          | 24.0    |
|       |  | No                  | 38          | 76.0    |
| 9.    | All sources of information                   | Mass media          | 46          | 92.0    |
|       |  | Friends             | 2           | 4.0     |
|       |  | Relatives           | 2           | 4.0     |

**Table 2: Level Of Knowledge Of The Mothers In Rural Areas Regarding Child Abuse**

| Level of Mother's Knowledge | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Inadequate                  | 45        | 90.0    |
| Moderate                    | 5         | 10.0    |
| Adequate                    | 0         | 0       |

The table indicates the overall knowledge level of mothers in the rural areas regarding child abuse, there were 45 (90%) of the mothers with inadequate knowledge, 5 (10%) of the mothers with moderate level of knowledge and none of the mothers had adequate knowledge regarding the child abuse.

#### **Association between levels of knowledge of mothers regarding child abuse with their selected demographic variables**

The study found that there was a significant association between demographic variables (marital status, type of family, educational status, occupation of mother and monthly income) and the knowledge level. The knowledge level of the mothers were highly significant at  $p < 0.05$  level.

The study also revealed that there was no significant association between the demographic variables (age of the mother, No of children, exposure to previous teaching on child abuse, and all sources of information) and knowledge level.

**The finding and discussion of the study reveals that**

1. 90%) of the mothers had inadequate knowledge on child abuse, and (10%) of the mothers had moderately adequate knowledge and none of them have adequate knowledge.
2. there was a significant association between demographic variables (marital status, type of family, educational status, occupation of mother and monthly income) and the knowledge level. The knowledge level of the mothers were highly significant at  $p < 0.05$  level.
3. The study also revealed that there was no significant association between the demographic variables (age of the mother, No of children, exposure to previous teaching on child abuse, and all sources of information) and knowledge level.

Since the child, abuse is the major problem prevailing in the country recently. The parents especially mothers do not understand the meaning of abusing the child and there is no awareness to identify in the early stages of child abuse.

**V. Conclusion:**

It is very important to educate the mother about child abuse so that the children will be protecting from the upcoming problems related to it. The researcher wishes to have more studies on the same. The generalization of the study may not be possible since it is a descriptive design.

**VI. Recommendations:**

- (1) A similar study can be done with a large sample for generalization.
- (2) A study can be carried out to evaluate the efficiency of other teaching strategies like structured teaching program, computer assisted teaching program etc...

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